

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 074990

64

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 SS-15 PM-03 EB-07 MC-02 SP-02

L-02 INR-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 /051 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB - CLSTERMER;MFG

APPROVED BY EA - RHMILLER

S/NM - DERNST

EA/TB - GBROBERTS

----- 074880

O 030037Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 074990

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MASS, BM

SUBJECT: PROPOSED BURMESE PURCHASE OF ARMORED CARS

REF: (A) RANGOON 9369; (B) RANGOON 0800; (C) STATE 71923

1. THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THE AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS AND AGREES TO WITHHOLD INFORMING CADILLAC GAGE OF THE DECISION (REF C) PENDING THE RETURN OF AMBASSADOR VANCE THIS WEEKEND. A REVIEW OF ALL THE FACTORS INVOLVED WILL THEN BE MADE. WE ANTICIPATE THAT A FINAL DECISION WILL BE REACHED EARLY NEXT WEEK.

2. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY AN ELABORATION OF THE EMBASSY'S THINKING ON THE PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MARCH 28 CONVERSATION WITH COLONEL TIN OO (REF B). WHILE WE WERE IMPRESSED WITH HIS SHOW OF CONTINUED COOPERATION ON

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 074990

NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES, THIS CAME AS NO SURPRISE

IN VIEW OF THE ALREADY WELL-ESTABLISHED DIRECTION OF GUB NARCOTICS POLICIES. IN FACT, ANY OTHER RESPONSE FROM COLONEL TIN OO WOULD HAVE BEEN UNEXPECTED. SINCE EARLY 1973, AS THE EMBASSY WELL KNOWS, THE GUB'S OWN INTERESTS HAVE PROMPTED AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD ACTIVIST POLICY TOWARD BRINGING NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS CUM INSURGENTS UNDER

CONTROL. THIS IMPETUS HAS BEEN LARGELY INDEPENDENT OF USG INTERESTS IN ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES ABROAD. OUR WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT ENHANCES THEIR CAPABILITIES, BUT WITHOUT THIS ASSISTANCE WE DOUBT THAT THEIR OWN EFFORTS WOULD CEASE. IN FACT, AS IS WELL KNOWN, ALL THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE HAVE BEEN DONE WITHOUT ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT. WE THUS DO NOT SEE HOW TIN OO'S MARCH 28 ATTITUDE CONSTITUTES A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE OUTLOOK FOR US-BURMA NARCOTICS COOPERATION, BUT WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS FOR USE IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR VANCE.

3. FINALLY, WHILE A NEGATIVE DECISION MIGHT BE INTERPRETED BY THE BURMESE AS ACROSS-THE-BOARD DISAPPROVAL (PARA 2 REF A), BY THE SAME ARGUMENT A POSITIVE DECISION COULD BE INTERPRETED AS APPROVAL. IF POSSIBLE, WE WOULD PREFER TO STEER A NEUTRAL COURSE AND AVOID DECISIONS WHICH WOULD TEND TO ASSOCIATE THE US WITH UNDESIRABLE FEATURES OF THE REGIME WHILE SUPPORTING THOSE REGIME POLICIES THAT COINCIDE WITH OUR GENERAL INTERESTS. THOUGH THE AVAILABILITY OF THE EXCESS T-33'S NO LONGER IS NEWS TO THE GUB, WE STILL THINK THAT REITERATING OUR WILLINGNESS TO SELL THEM AT SUCH AN ATTRACTIVE PRICE WOULD BE FAVORABLY INTERPRETED AS INDICATING OUR GENERAL INTEREST IN ASSISTING BURMA'S LEADERS TO MAINTAIN THEIR DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES. HELPING A SPECIALLY-EQUIPPED POLICE FORCE MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER IN RANGOON THROUGH POTENTIALLY REPRESSIVE MEANS SEEMS TO US TO SIGNIFY A DIFFERENT AND LESS APPROPRIATE US POLICY STANCE TOWARD BURMA. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, POLICIES, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), TRACKED VEHICLES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE074990
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CLSTERMER;MFG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750114-0465
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750485/aaaaczip.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 75 RANGOON 9369, 75 RANGOON 0800, 75 STATE 71923
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED BURMESE PURCHASE OF ARMORED CARS
TAGS: MILI, MASS, BM, US
To: RANGOON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006